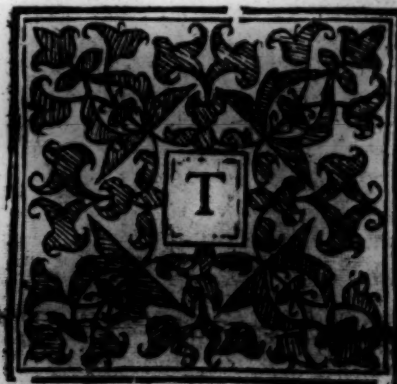




By the Treasuror, Councill and Company for VIRGINIA.



THE Treasuror, Councill and Company for Virginia, to the Gouverneur of Virginia, and the Councill of Estate there residing, Greeting. We haue to our great griefe receiued aduertisement of the mortality, which this last yeere hath there wrought vpon the People, to the consumption of diuers hundreds, and almost the vtter destruction of some particular Plantations. And although we cannot herein but with much humility acknowledge the iust finger of Almighty God, by this severity of chastisement, to recall vs and you from those grievous transgressions, which draw downe, euen from clemency it selfe, such necessary punishments; and accordingly aduise you, together with our selues, to humble vs in due contrition, before his mercifull hand; and by future amendment, in better attending the Diuine worship, and more carefully obseruing his holy and iust Lawes, to worke a reconciliation, and to entreate the renewing of his most gracious fauour towards vs. Yet obseruing on the other side, that this mortality hath proceeded from a disease in it selfe not mortall, and accordingly hath most wrought vpon the new Plantations, who (contrary to our expectation and intended prouisions) were destitute of those meanes which should haue relieved and cherished them in their weakenesse and sicknesse, of which the ancienter Inhabitants being prouided, did recover.

full considerations the redresse and preuention of these defects in all future times: That the Colony may better attend the seruice of God, and that the people now sent, and which hereafter shall come, may be the better prouided against that, and the like sicknesses, (seeing in the health of the People, consisteth the very life, strength, increase, and prosperity of the whole generall Colony) doe with mature deliberation and vniuersall consent, ordaine and establish as hereafter followeth.

First, we ordaine and require, that in conuenient time, after the sight and publication hereof, the foure ancient generall Burroughs, called *James City, Henrico, Charles City, and Kicowtan*, (which hereafter shall be called *Elizabeth City*, by the name of his Majesties most vertuous and renowned Daughter,) as also the other severall particular Plantations, shall each of them, at their common charge, labour, and industry, frame, build, and perfect, with all things thereto belonging, a common house, to bee called a Guest house, for the lodging and entertaining of fifty persons in each, vpon their first arriual. Of which houses, to be raised in due and wholesome places, each shall be sixteene foot broad within, and nine score foot long, (vnlesse it seeme good to diuide that length into two houses:) And in each of them shall be set vp all along on the one side, five and twenty Bedsteads of foure foot broad, sixe foot long, and two foot height from the ground in equall distance, and with partitions of Boords betweene them: And there shall be raised in each of the conuenient places, five Chimnies. These houses we also require to be strongly built for continuance, with windowes well placed for wholesome aire. And although it were reason that each Burrough should beare the charge of such an house entirely, being for the health and safety of their people: Yet for their better encouragement, we haue, and by these presents doe grant and giue to each Burrough, in consideration and aide of that worke, two Kine or Heifers, to be deliuered at our charges, for the beginning of a stocke of cattell, for their common or Burrough Land, by vs formerly granted.

And to the end that the People, both present and to come, may be faithfully brought vpon the true knowledge and seruice of Almighty God, and so learne to frame their liues and conuersations, as not onely, not to prouoke the Diuine indignation, which pursueth the faithlesse and disobedient soules by sundry kinds of punishment to euellasting destruction: but also by their good example, to allure the Heathen people to submit themselues to the Scepter of Gods most righteous and blessed Kingdome, and so finally to ioyne with them in the true Christian profession: We doe hereby ordaine and require, that in euery Burrough there be prouided and placed at the least one godly and learned Minister, to be chosen in each particular Plantation by the severall Adventurers and Planters; And for the foure ancient Burroughs, to be prouided and nominated by vs, and our Successors; As also for the Tenants and Inhabitants of the Companies Land wherefoeuer: Leauing alwaies to the Gouverneur to prouide a Minister for his Tenants, and to the Colledge for theirs. All which Ministers and their Successors, we earnestly pray and require to apply themselues with all diligence, to the training vp of their charge in the way of righteousnesse, as the same is now professed, and by Law established in this Church of England, and other his Majesties Dominions, auoiding all factions, and needlesse Nouelties, tending onely to the disturbance of peace and vnity. And whereas we haue ordained heretofore, that one hundred acres of Glebe land be set out and allotted for euery Minister, besides other profits out of the Inhabitants increase: We doe hereby also ordaine, that the said Ministers be furnished, each with sixe Tenants, towards the occupying of his Glebe land: which sixe, for the Ministers belonging to the publike lands; that is to say, the Gouvernours, Colledges, and Companies Land, shall bee sent and furnished wholly at the common charges of the Company. And for the Burroughs, as well the ancient, as those of particular Plantations, the Company is content to furnish out at their charges, three Tenants for each, vpon condition that the severall Burroughs furnish out three more: which sixe, for each Minister being once so furnished, the Ministers themselves shall be afterwards charged each to maintaine that number at the least, and so to leaue them to his Successor.

And for as much as it is apparant to all vnderstanding minds, that the wealth, happinesse and stability of each particular Estate, is founded vpon the strength and prosperity of the publike, (the publike hauing been of late yeeres wholly decayed and ruined, to the inestimable losse and detriment of the whole Plantation, we haue carefully endeouored to restore and set vp in greater height than euer, as by the supplies of five hundred persons for publike vse, now, and lately sent, will manifestly appeare:) vnder your amiable trust and confidence, that not onely your selues, the Gouverneur and Councill, but the whole body of the Colonie, and euery member thereof, taking into due consideration, how much the life and health of the publike Tenants may import them all, as well for their ease of publike burthens, as for support of publike iustice, good order & government, will by all meanes apply themselues to the entertaining and prouiding for them so vpon their first arriual, as that not onely their liues and hearts bee not injured, but that also they may cheerfully set in hand, with the workes and labours directed and prepared for them; doe earnestly pray and require both you, and them all, that all other businesse of lesse importance laid aside, they immediatly affoord all possible assistance, for the raising of houses and conuenient lodgings for them, with other necessary reliefe and succour: Wherein whatsoeuer they shall doe louingly and freely of their owne voluntary accord, we shall with due thanks accept it at their hands, (desiring that particular notice be giuen to vs thereof) and for that which is to be done by them, about that proportion, there shall be recompence made of as many dayes worke, by those publike Tenants, at the next possible opportunity, thinking it equall neither to refuse any helpe for the publike, nor yet to charge the priuate about their contents and abilities. And although we haue absolute power deriued from his Majesty, to establish and enioyne by order the performance hereof: yet seeing this aide is to bee yeilded but this once, (the publike Tenants being henceforward to prepare for all new supplies) we haue thought better by request, to try the loue of the Colony, than their obedience by command.

Lastly, for as much as it is become very apparant (which we haue often heretofore foreseene and forewarned) that the applying so altogether the planting of Tobacco, and the neglect of other more solid commodities, haue not only redounded to the great disgrace of the Countrey, and detriment of the Colony; but doth also in point of profit, greatly deceiue them which haue trusted to it: We therefore endeouoring to reforme this error, and to restore due reputation to that Land and people, haue with great care and charge (assisted also with some particular Plantations) endeouored to set vp sundry reall Commodities, and other some we haue thought fit to recommend to your care to prosecute. First, *Iron*, being of most necessary vse for the Colony. For the making whereof, we now furnish out 150. persons, to set vp three *Iron-workes*, with all Materials and other prouisions therunto belonging. Secondly, for *Cordage*, we much commend the order taken by your selues, for the planting of *Silk-grasse* there naturally growing, which we desire may be in the greatest abundance possible, as conceiuing it to be of chiefe importance both for vse and profit. Thirdly, for *Pitch* and *Tar*, we aduise and require, that the *Polackers* be returned in part to these their workes, with such other assistance as shall be necessary. The like we shall desire for *Pot-ashes* and *Sope-ashes*, when there shall be fit store of hands to assist them: Requiring in the meane time, that care be generally taken, that Seruants and Apprentices be so trained vp in these workes, as that the skill doe not perish together with the Masters. The Fourth commodity recommended, is *Timber* of all sorts, with *Masts*, *Planks*, and *Boards*, for prouisions of shipping, and sundry other Materials of much vse and benefit. And to the ease and increase of diuers of those workes, prouision is now sent, for the erecting of *Sawing-Milles*, which may fill the whole Colony also with *Planks* and *Boards*, to their great ease and helpe in setting vp their Buildings. The fifth, is *Silke*, for which that Countrey is exceeding proper, hauing innumerable store of *Mulberry* trees of the best. For the setting vp of which commodity, his Majesty hath been graciously pleased, now the second time (the former hauing miscarried) to bestow vpon the Company plenty of *Silk-worme-seed* of his owne store, being the best to be had; which together with such other, as from other places we could procure, we haue sent to you by the *DV TY*, at a seasonable time of the yere; requiring the same to be dispersed amongst the Colony, with order for the vsing thereof, and especially to keep the Wormes from the aire of Tobacco, which is mortall to them. The sixth is *Vines*, whereof the Countrey yeeldeth naturally great store, and of diuers sorts, which by culture will be brought to excellent perfection. For the effecting whereof, diuers skillfull *Vignerons* heretofore, and some now are sent, with store also from hence of *Vine-plants* of the best sort. And here by the way we aduise and desire, that Men of those Sciences, which are not naturall to vs, be extraordinarily cherished and encouraged in their workes: seeing if they should faile, it would be difficult to supply them. The last commodity, but not of least importance for health, is *SALT*: the workes whereof hauing been lately suffered to decay; we now intending to restore in so great plenty, as not onely to serue the Colony for the present, but as is hoped, in short time, the great fishings on those Coasts (a matter of inestimable advancement to the Colony) doe vpon mature deliberation ordaine as followeth: First, that you the Gouverneur and Councill, doe chuse out of the Tenants for the Company, 20. fit persons to be employed in Salt workes, which are to be renewed in *Sauins Island*, where they were before; as also in taking of Fish there, for vse of the Colony, as in former time was also done. These 20. shall be furnished out at the first, at the charges of the Company, with all implements and instruments necessary for those workes. They shall haue also assigned to each of them, for their occupation or vse, 50. acres of Land, within the same Island, to be the Land of the Company. The one moiety of *Salt*, *Fish*, and profits of the Land, shall be for the Tenants, and the other for vs the Company, to be deliuered into our Store: and this contract shall be to continue for five yeeres. Wee doe also hereby grant and ordaine, that if any of the old Burroughs, or other particular Plantations, shall be pleased to concur in the same workes of making *Salt*, and taking *Fish*, they shall be admitted thereunto to the number of twenty persons or vnder, for euery Burrough or Plantation, with the like Grants as before, & with the same Diuisions of profit, betweene them and their Landlords, as before set downe betweene the Company and their Tenants. These being the commodities (for Corne and Cattell we passe ouer, being onely for sustentance of the people) which we desire to haue set vp with all care and diligence, as well for necessary vse and profit, as for the honour and reputation of the Countrey and Colony; and for the aduancing of which, we haue spared neither care nor cost, which on our parts was requisite to our best vnderstandings: It remaineth, that we earnestly pray and desire you, that you also on your parts correspond with vs in the like. And if any thing (as in so manifold businesse) shall happen on our behalfe, to haue been omitted or vnprovided, that you endeouor to supply it with all such helpe as may there be had: For vnworthy he were to be a member of that body, that would not lend his hand to the setting vp of workes so necessary and profitable, and whereof himselfe may in short time be a partaker. And whatsoeuer in that kind shall bee done through our desire, Given in a great and generall Court held for Virginia, the 17. day of May, 1620. and in the yeere of the Raigne of our Soueraigne Lord James, by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. viz. of England, Scotland, France and Ireland the eighteenth, and of Scotland the three and fiftieth.

God save the King.